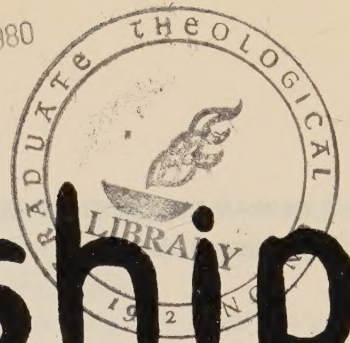


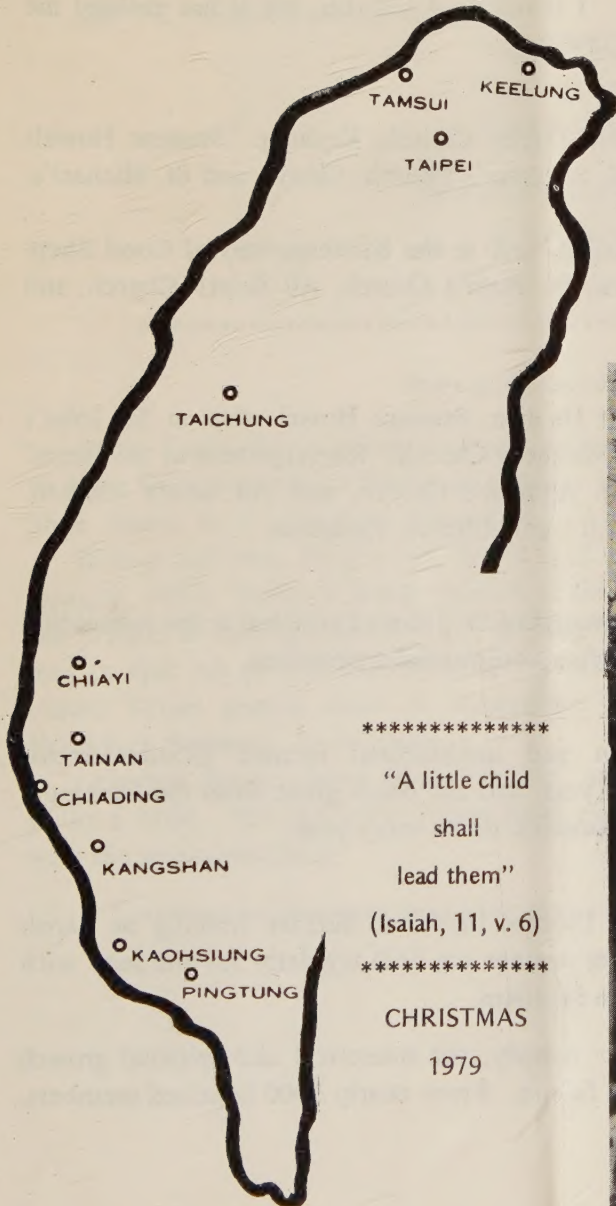
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Friendship

WINTER 1979

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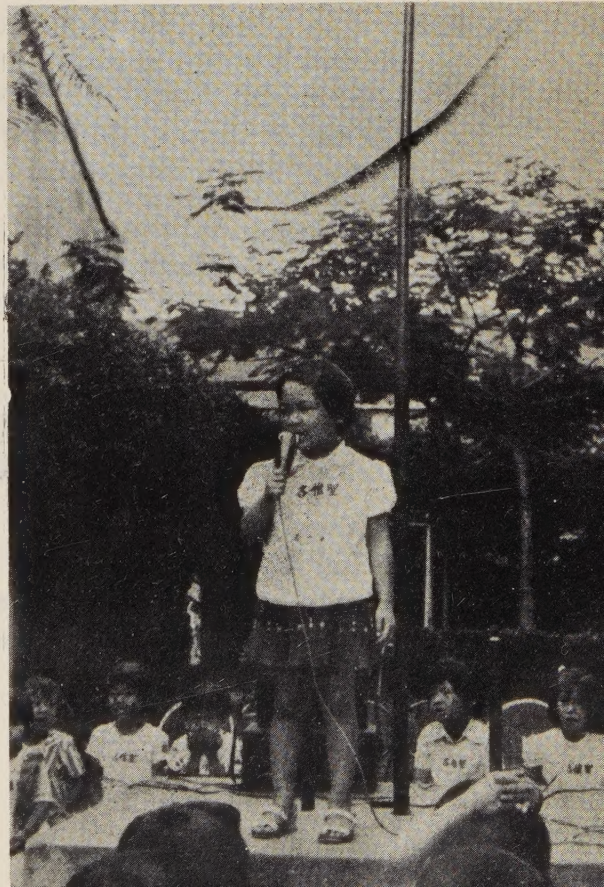


"A little child
shall
lead them"

(Isaiah, 11, v. 6)

CHRISTMAS

1979



FROM THE BISHOP

4th December 1979

Dear Flock and Friends,

This is my swan song, and a swan song is usually short and sad. During my nine years as your bishop, I have had the greatest support and cooperation from you in all tasks I have undertaken for the diocese. I thank God for this, for it has enabled me to accomplish the following between 1971-1979:

New Buildings:

Advent Church, Hsinpu, & Holy Trinity Church, Keelung. 'Student Hostels at Hsinpu, St. John's Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, Chiayi, and St. Michael's, Tainan.

New Classroom Buildings at Hsinpu and at the Kindergartens of Good Shepherd Church, St. James' Church, St. Peter's Church, All Saints' Church, and St. Paul's Church.

New Work:

St. Luke's preaching station at Hualien; Student Hostel work at St. John's Cathedral, St. Peter's, and St. Michael's Church. Kindergartens at St. James' Church, St. Peter's Church, St. Andrew's Church, and All Saints' Church. Welfare Work for old people at All Saints Church, Kangshan.

Property Development:

A high rise building on the compound of St. John's Cathedral & the re-building of Good Shepherd Vicarage into four commercial apartments.

Increased Income:

Church members' contribution and institutional income (Kindergartens, Student Hostels etc.) up every year, and the block grant from the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, down every year.

Clergy & Lay Training:

All the Chinese Clergy in the Diocese have had further training or parish experience abroad. Lay training sessions are held regularly for the laity with special teaching materials written for them.

However, our most important work, - namely, the numerical and spiritual growth of our Churches and Missions, has been a failure. From nearly 3000 baptized members,

we are now down to under 2,000. Neither clergy nor laity have had much success in reaching out for new people. I sincerely ask God's forgiveness and yours for not having provided adequate leadership in this most important aspect of our work.

Fortunately, my successor, Bishop-Elect P.Y. Cheung, is more gifted than I in pastoral and evangelistic work, and we pray that during his episcopacy, our Diocese will grow in depth of spirit and strength in numbers, *In conclusion*, I wish to quote:

- a. A verse of Scripture: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Phil. 1, V.3).
- b. A verse from the Tao Te Ching:
"To retire when the task is accomplished Is the way of heaven" (IX, 23).
- and c. A little poem by myself:
"Retire from work in Taiwan, Take life easy at Taofongshan, Amidst tranquil scenery, To write Chinese theology"

Your affectionate Bishop,
+ James Pong.

News of Bishop Pong's Family

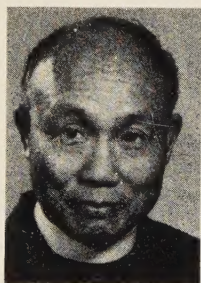
After Canon P.Y. Cheung's Consecration and Installation, Bishop Pong will move to hong kong to serve as Rector of the Tao Fong Shan Ecumenical Institute, Tao Fong Shan, Shatin, N. T., Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Bishop and Mrs. Pong's son, David, and daughter, Rachel, both left the U. S. in January, 1979. David is doing research at the Australian National University, Canberra, and Rachel is with Sperry-UNIVAC in Hong Kong. David will come to Taipei at Christmas to visit his parents as well as to do more research for his new book. Rachel has visited Taipei several times in connection with her computer work, and is now in Frankfurt, Germany, on business.

Grandma Pong, turned 98 in October, and is still going strong. She eats well and walks a little. She reads the Prayer Book every day and does some sewing by hand or with the sewing machine.



On his recent travels, Bishop Pong had the privilege of meeting his Holiness, Pope John Paul the second.



The Rev. Canon *Pui Yeung Cheung*, Bishop-elected of Taiwan, will be consecrated on January 6, 1980. He was elected last February 13 at a special Diocesan Synod. For many years he has resided in Hong Kong where he has held a number of diocesan posts. The Taiwan Episcopal Church has approximately 2,000 baptized members served by 18 priests. The new bishop, 59, will succeed the Rt. Rev. *James Pong*, who will retire next January.

Note:

The Consecration will be at the Church of the Advent, Hsinpu, at 4 p.m. Buses will be provided for people travelling from Taipei. Taking part in the ceremony will be the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (the Most Revd. John M. Allin), Bishop Pong, the Prime Bishop of the Philippine Episcopal Church, the Bishop of Hong Kong, the Bishop of Seovl, the Bishop of Sabah, the new Chairman of the CCEA, Bishop Basil Tememgong of Kuching. *The Installation* will take place on Monday, the 7th January, at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei, — at the beginning of the Annual Convocation.

People and Places

the Reverend Roy. W. Taylor, for many years a Church Missionary Society (U. K.) worker in the Diocese has been appointed Team Vicar of St. James' Fordhouses, in the Bushbury Team Ministry, Lichfield, England.

the Reverend Canon Simon Barrington - Ward - General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society (U. K.) spent a week in the Diocese. He had some interesting things to say about the changing pattern of evangelism.

the Reverend Patric Hutton is an old friend having spent over 10 years in Taiwan, several of them as Archdeacon. He is now on the Bishop's staff in Dallas, U. S. A., It is 8½ years since he left the Diocese. He noted several changes. (1) The economic affluence (2) The tremendous amount of building and the availability of money and (3) In this context, the Church has done exactly what the Mother Church asked and become financially independent but at the neglect of any obvious growth. Mrs Hutton is well, Katie (a Ph. D. in Physics) runs the seismologic laboratory at Caltec University, California, and Timothy is married and studying for his doctorate in physics.

the Reverend Canon Oliver B. Carver is Bishop's Assistant in the Diocese of Los Angeles. A graduate of Harvard business school, he was 11 years with Lockheed before going to seminary to train as a priest. A bachelor - he is chaplain to the University of California and much concerned in the re-settlement of Indo-Chinese refugees. Over 10% of the population in Los Angeles is Asian and growing dramatically. His last visit to Asia was in 1946, when he was with the American Navy in Shanghai and Nanking. Commenting on Taiwan, he observed that in a 7 day working week culture Other religions kept their temples open all day long and people went to them at their convenience. Our Churches are open only at certain times. Perhaps a new adjustment in thinking is needed.

Mr. Dick Slater - a retail pharmacist from Auckland in New Zealand was on his first visit abroad. He commented that Taiwan was a sixth the size of New Zealand with 17 million people to New Zealand's 3½. Mr Slater, Fr. Carver, and Fr Hutton, were on their way to the Partners in Mission consultation in Hong Kong.

the Reverend Luke Ooi came on to Taiwan after attending various conferences. He was one of 7 clergy present at the Chinese Clergy Conference in Hong Kong who had attended the first conference 20 years age. Then there were 30 present. This time - 72. He is Vicar of S. Paul's, Petaling Jaya, West Malaysia.

the Reverend Canon James Robertson, Secretary for the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, (U. K.) was the Church of England representative at the Partners in Mission and Church Council of East Asia meetings in Hong Kong. A Scot, - he enjoyed keeping S. Andrew's day with us, and a visit to Sun - moon Lake.

Two true stories

1. When I was a little girl, my grandmother lived with us. She always told me this story. My father was her first son. When he was about 20 years old, he went to the Tainan Christian hospital for treatment to his feet. During that time he began to hear about Jesus, and he decided to become a Christian.

When he came home from hospital, he went to Church, and told my grandmother about his decision. She was very angry, —“You are my first son”, she said, “you must remain a Buddhist like me and ‘pai pai’ (worship) our ancestors. You cannot go to Church again”. Although my father obeyed her, he always prayed to God to give him a chance to go to Church again.

A few months later, my grandmother was very sick and almost died. The children gathered round the bed crying. Suddenly she woke up and said “Why am I here? I have just been to a special place. I saw a man wearing a long white robe. He told me to follow him. We walked along a big dark road. It was very noisy and people were crying. I felt very uncomfortable and was scared. I told him I didn’t like this place, so the man took me to a small narrow road. Beside the road were trees and flowers shining like diamonds. It was very beautiful. I heard singing and the organ playing everywhere. It made me feel very peaceful. I enjoyed it very much!” Then the man said, “Woman you must go home because your children need you”. I said, “No, -I’d like to stay here all my life”, — but the man said, “It’s not your time: you must go back”. I said, “I don’t know the way to go home”. The man said, “I will guide you”. Then I woke up.

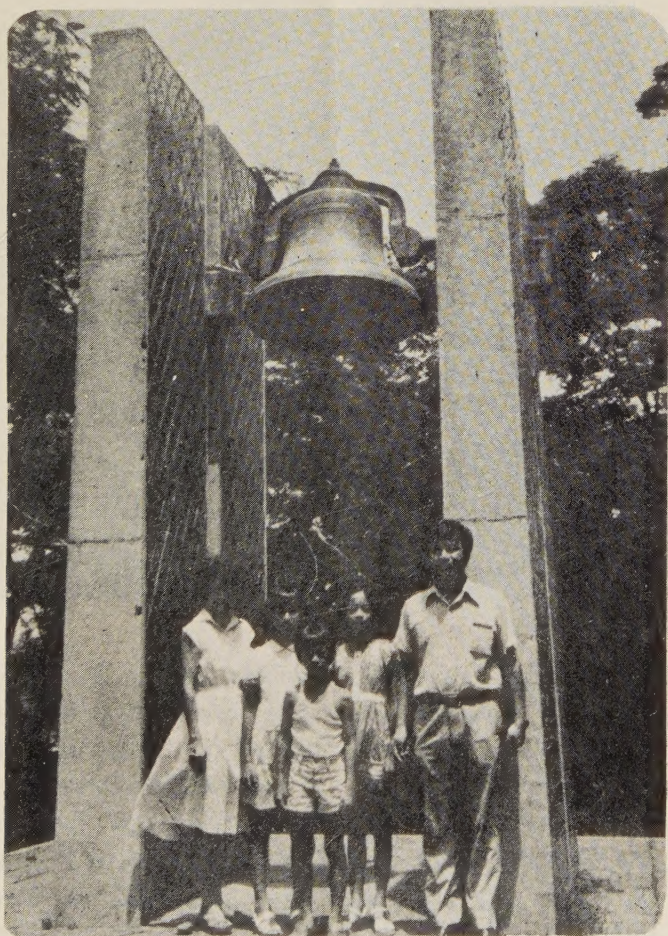
My father knew what had happened and asked my grandmother if he could call the minister. She agreed and the minister came and prayed with her and explained all that had happened. “If you would like to go to that beautiful place, you must believe in God and let your son go to Church”. She gave her consent and we were filled with joy and happiness. When the family members (except my grandmother, who was still sick in bed) saw the minister off, the Buddhist pictures hanging on the wall suddenly caught fire. My grandmother jumped up though she was very weak, and ran to the gate to call us to put out the fire. When we got back, we were very surprised. Though the pictures were burnt, the desk and the chair were not touched by the fire! From that time, all the family were converted to Christianity. My father went to seminary and became a minister.

2. Fifteen years ago my father became the minister of a new Church in Kaohsiung. One day the water tower which was on top of the third floor needed attention and my father climbed up to fix it. It had rained for several days, — so the tower was very slippery. I was in the kitchen washing the dishes when I heard a big crash. I saw a big man hanging on the the bamboofence and then falling to the ground. It was my father!

We took him to the hospital. He was seriously hurt with broken breast bones, spinal injuries, and internal bleeding. A doctor came from Changhwa Hospital to see him & he, together with the other doctors, shook their heads and said "it was hopeless". The Church members were very upset and prayers were offered on his behalf. When I came home from the hospital, there was nobody at home. I felt sad and lonely but I knew what to do. I prayed in these words- "O heavenly Father, have mercy on my father. If he gets well again, I will serve you all my life". After one month, he recovered, and became stronger than before. Two years later, I became a pastor's wife.

Now my father is seventy years old and is still serving in the same Church. This explains my favourite text:- "You did not choose me; I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name" (John 15, v.16).

(contributed by Grace Chien, the wife of the Reverend John Chien,
Rector of Good Shepherd Church, Shih Lin).



the Chien family.



Bishop Runcie to Canterbury

The 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury will be the Rt. Rev. Robert A. K. Runcie, Bishop of St. Albans. His name was one of two forwarded to the Crown Appointments Commission under the new procedure established two years ago. Bishop Runcie was formally nominated by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister for election by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury. Bishop Runcie, who is 57, is to be the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Primate of all England in succession to Dr. Donald Coggan who retires January 25, 1980. His enthronement is scheduled for March 25, 1980. The Archbishop of Canterbury is spiritual head of the 65 million-member Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is the United States branch.